

Lepidoptera from South Ronaldsay, Orkney

By K. P. BLAND*

The lepidopterous fauna of the Orkney Islands is still incompletely known and although recent work by several collectors (see Lorimer, 1975) has improved the situation considerably, much of this work has been concentrated on the Mainland, Burray and, of course, Hoy. While on holiday in South Ronaldsay between 21st July and 2nd August, 1976, I took the opportunity to run a mains m.v. lamp and to do a small amount of day-time collecting. Although the siting of the light-trap (in agricultural land at 260 ft. on Vensilly Hill) was far from ideal and the weather was rather windy and showery, the following species were recorded.

GLYPHIPTERIGIDAE: *Anthophila fabriciana* (Linn.), flying around *Urtica dioica* (B, H); *Glyphipterix simpliciella* (Steph.), larvae in seeds of *Dactylus* (F, H).

YPONOMEUTIDAE: *Rhigognostis annulatella* (Curt.), common on shore at dusk (B, E).

EPERMENIIDAE: *Phaulernis fulviguttella* (Zell.), flying in sunshine (C); *Epermenia chaerophyllella* (Goeze), bred from larvae on leaves of *Heracleum sphondylium* (H).

ELACHISTIDAE: *Elachista pulchella* (Haw.), one to light-trap (A).

OECOPHORIDAE: *Endrosis sarcitrella* (Linn.), in buildings (A); *Hofmannophila pseudospretella* (Sta.), in buildings (A); *Agonopterix ciliella* (Sta.), bred from larvae in rolled leaves of *Angelica sylvestris* (C); *Agonopterix heracliana* (Linn.), bred from larva in folded leaf of *Heracleum sphondylium* (H); *Agonopterix nervosa* (Haw.), bred from larva on *Ulex europaeus*, from near Quoyhorsetter.

TORTRICIDAE: *Archips rosana* (Linn.), bred from pupa in folded leaf of *Lonicera* (H); *Cnephasia interjectana* (Haw.), disturbed from low herbage (A); *Eana osseana* (Scop.), flying in sunshine (E); *Croesia bergmanniana* (Linn.), beaten from *Rosa* sp. (H); *Acleris aspersana* (Hübner), bred from larva in folded leaf of *Potentilla palustris* (A); *Olethreutes lacunana* (D. & S.), disturbed from low herbage (A, C); *Lobesia littoralis* (H. & W.), common flying around *Armenia maritima* at dusk (B, E); *Dichrorampha montanana* (Dup.), disturbed from low herbage (A).

PYRALIDAE: *Agriphila straminella* (D. & S.), to light-trap and by day (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H); *A. tristella* (D. & S.), to light-trap (A); *Udea elutalis* (D. & S.), abundant flying by day (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H).

PTEROPHORIDAE: *Platyptilia gonodactyla* (D. & S.), bred from pupa on *Tussilago farfara* (B); *P. isodactylus* (Zell.), bred from pupa in stem of *Senecio jacobaea* (G); *Stenoptilia bipunctidactyla* (Scop.), to light-trap and by day (A, B).

PIERIDAE: *Pieris napi* (Linn.) (E).

LYCAENIDAE: *Polyommatus icarus* (Rott.) (A, B, C, E, F).

NYMPHALIDAE: *Aglais urticae* (Linn.) (D.).

SATYRIDAE: *Maniola jurtina* (Linn.) (A, C, E, F, H).

* 63 Charterhall Grove, Edinburgh, EH9 3HT.

GEOMETRIDAE: *Xanthorhoe munitata* (Hüb.), to light-trap and by day (A, E, F); *Scotopteryx chenopodiata* (Linn.), at rest in grass (A); *Camptogramma bilineata* (Linn.), common (B, C, E, G); *Entephria caesiata* (D. & S.), to light-trap and by day (A, B); *Cosmorhoe ocellata* (Linn.), one at rest in grass (A); *Chloroclysta citrata* (Linn.), disturbed from low herbage (C); *Cidaria fulvata* (Fors.), beaten from *Rosa* sp. (E, H); *Perizoma didymata* (Linn.), to light-trap and by day (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H); *Eupithecia pulchellata* (Steph.), larvae in flowers and seed-capsules of *Digitalis purpurea* (E); *Aplocera plagiata* (Linn.), one at rest on dead heather (E).

NOCTUIDAE: **Rhyacia simulans* (Hufn.), one in building (A); *Noctua pronuba* (Linn.), to light-trap (A); *Lycophotia porphyrea* (D. & S.), to light-trap (A); *Diarsia mendica orkneyensis* (B.-S.), to light-trap and at dusk (A, B); *Xestia c-nigrum* (Linn.), to light-trap (A); **X. sexstrigata* (Haw.), to light-trap (A); *X. xanthographa* (D. & S.), to light-trap (A); *Hadena bicruris* (Hufn.), larvae in seed-capsules of *Silene dioica* (B, C, E); *Cerapteryx graminis* (Linn.), to light-trap and at dusk (A, B); *Mythimna impura scotica* (Cock.), to light-trap and at dusk (A, B, E); *Apamea monoglypha* (Hufn.), to light-trap (A); **A. remissa* (Hüb.), to light-trap (A); **Oligia fasciuncula* (Haw.), to light-trap and by day (A, B); *Mesapamea secalis* (Linn.), to light-trap and at dusk (A, B); *Photedes minima* (Haw.), to light-trap (A); *Autographa pulchrina* (Haw.), to light-trap (A).

Additional species from other parts:

NEPTICULIDAE: †*Stigmella hybnerella* (Hüb.), mines in *Crataegus* sp. at Binscarth and near Fea, Mainland.

GRACILLARIIDAE: †*Caloptilia elongella* (Linn.), bred from larvae in rolled leaves of *Alnus* sp. from Binscarth, Mainland; *C. syringella* (Fab.), larval blotches in leaves of *Ligustrum* sp. in Kirkwall, and in *Fraxinus excelsior* at Binscarth, Mainland; *Phyllonorycter maestingella* (Mull.), bred from blotch-mines in *Fagus sylvatica* from Binscarth, Mainland.

NYMPHALIDAE: *Argynnis aglaja* (Linn.), several at Bu' Sands, Burray.

SATURNIIDAE: *Saturnia pavonia* (Linn.), larvae on *Filipendula ulmaria* in Greeny Marsh, Mainland.

GEOMETRIDAE: †*Epirrhoe tristata* (Linn.), one at Bu' Sands, Burray.

Explanatory Notes

*=Genitalia checked. †=Previously unrecorded in Orkney. Localities: A—Vensilly Hill, B—Newark Bay, C—Wind Wick, D—Bur Wick, E—Sand Wick, F—Oyce of Herston, G—Dam of Hoxa, H—St. Margaret's Hope. Plant names are from Keble Martin (1969).

References

- Lorimer, R. I., 1975. *Lepidoptera of Orkney*. In *The Natural Environment of Orkney* (edit. R. Goodier), The Nature Conservancy Council, Edinburgh.
Keble Martin, W., 1969. *The Concise British Flora in Colour*. George Rainbird Ltd., London.